REMARKS

Claims 1-27, 29-32 and 34-39 were pending when the application was last examined. Claims 24-27, 29-32 and 38-39 are canceled. Claims 1, 2, 4 5, 6, 9, 10, 12, 14, 15, 16 and 19-21 are amended. No new matter has been introduced. 1-23 and 34-37 are now pending. Of the allowed and allowable claims, claims 5, 6, 8, 15, 16, 18 and 37 are now in independent form. Of the remaining pending claims, claims 1, 11, 22, 23 and 36 are independent.

Interview Summary

A telephonic interview was conducted between the Examiner and Applicants' representative on February 28, 2008. Applicants thank the Examiner for granting the interview. The Examiner indicated that he would be withdrawing Copperman as a reference and may issue another non-final Office action.

The Examiner also pointed out an error in the specification pertaining to the serial number of a referenced application. This serial number is being corrected in the amendments to the specification.

Amendments to the Specification

Serial number of one of the referenced applications is being corrected. Further amendments are being made to reflect the referenced applications that have since been issued into patents or have been abandoned.

Allowed and Allowable Claims

Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing claims 8, 18, 34, 35 and 37.

The Examiner has objected to claims 5-7 and 15-17 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but indicated that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 5 and 6 are amended, each to include the elements of claim 1, from which claims 5 and 6 depended. Claim 7 depends from claim 6.

Claims 15 and 16 are amended, each to include the elements of claim 11, from which claims 15 and 16 depended. Claim 17 depends from claim 16.

Claims 2, 4, 9, 12, 14 and 19-21 are amended to change their dependency to an allowable base claim. Claim 3 depends from claim 2. Claim 13 depends from claim 12.

Accordingly, allowance of claims 2-7, 9, 12-17 and 19-21 is requested. The allowed and allowable claims should include claims 5-9, 15-21, 34-35 and 37

Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 24-27, 29-32, and 38-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Marcu et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20020046018. The rejected claims are being canceled without prejudice to expedite prosecution.

Claim Rejections, 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 11-14, 22-23 and 36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Marcu in view of Copperman et al. U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 20040024739.

Claims 9-10 and 19-21 are rejected under 35 US.C. 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Marcu in view of Copperman and further in view of Nakao U.S. Patent No.

5,205,456. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the amendments to the claims and further in view of the following arguments.

Claims 1 and 10

The amended independent claim 1 recites "A method of determining a hybrid text summary comprising the steps of: <u>determining discourse constituents</u> for a text; <u>determining a structural representation of discourse</u> for the text; <u>determining relevance scores for the discourse constituents</u> based on at least one <u>non-structural measure of relevance</u>; <u>percolating the relevance scores based on the structural representation of discourse</u>; and determining a hybrid text summary." (Emphasis added.) The amended claim 10 depends from claim 1 and recites 'The method of claim 1, wherein percolation of relevance scores comprises the steps of: <u>determining important discourse constituents</u>, the relevance scores of the important discourse constituents exceeding an importance threshold value; <u>determining unresolved anaphors of the important discourse constituents</u>; determining potential <u>resolving discourse constituents</u> containing potential antecedent referent of the unresolved anaphors; <u>percolating the relevance score of the important discourse constituents through the potential resolving discourse constituents</u>; and <u>determining a modified span of the important discourse constituents</u> based on the relevance score." (Emphasis added.)

Support for amendments to these claims may be found throughout the specification and drawing and, for example, in Figures 2, 4 and 12 of the drawings.

Marcu is cited for alleged teaching all elements of claim 1 but "determining relevance scores" and "percolating relevance scores" which are allegedly taught by Copperman in paragraphs [0082], [0165] and [0176] and in figures 14 and 18. (Office action, pp. 5, 6.)

According to the Office action, "percolation is construed to be both functionally equivalent and equally effective as passing various scores with high probability, where undesirable scores can be filtered out." (Office action, p. 6.) However, in Copperman there is no "passing" of scores and there is only assigning. Further, there are no rules given for passing the scores or percolating the scores because passing or percolating are not done in Copperman.

For example, Copperman states that "When presented with new text, the text classifiers … assigning a score to each classification based on the distance between the classification's word/phrase vector and the new text's vector." (Copperman, paragraph [0082]; emphasis added.) Copperman also assigns weights "Taxonomy tag identification creates a set of tags indicating concept-nodes form one or more taxonomies and weights for each tag, for the content being autocontextualized." (Id.; emphasis added.) Paragraph [0165] that refers to figure 18 of Copperman talks about searching each region based on an index of that region. Paragraph [0176] of Copperman talks about possible "answers" to a question and each answer having a relevance score of between 0 and 1. However, Copperman does not appear to teach that relevance score of one answer is somehow assigned to another answer. Therefore, there is no percolation of scores in Copperman and the reference does not teach "percolating the relevance scores" of claim 1. Along the same lines, there are no rules given for migrating the relevance scores from answer to answer. Therefore, even if Copperman were to include "structural representation of discourse," there is no indication of percolation in this reference such that the percolation could be "based on the structural representation of discourse."

As such, Applicants submit that Marcu and Copperman combined do not teach or suggest "percolating the relevance scores" of claim 1. Accordingly, this claim is believed to be patentable in view of the cited references.

With respect to the rejection of dependent claim 10, while continuing to traverse the Examiner's characterization of the teachings of the references used by the Examiner in rejecting these claims, Applicants respectfully submit that this claim is patentable by definition, by virtue of dependence upon the patentable independent claim 1.

Claims 11, 22, 23 and 36

Independent claim 11 recites in part "a percolation circuit for percolating discourse constituent relevance scores based on the structural representation of discourse."

Independent claim 36 recites in part "means for percolating relevance scores based on the structural representation of discourse."

Independent claim 22 recites in part "instructions for percolating relevance scores based on the structural representation of discourse."

Independent claim 23 recites in part "percolating relevance scores based on the structural representation of discourse."
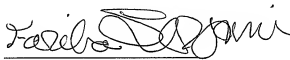
Pursuant to the aforesaid arguments made by Applicants with respect to claim 1, Applicants submit that Marcu and Copperman combined do not teach or suggest "percolating the relevance scores" and, therefore, these references do not teach or suggest all elements of claim 11, 22, 23 or 36. Accordingly, these claims are believed to be patentable in view of the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: April 22, 2008

Fariba Sirjani
Registration No. 47,947